

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 11, 2000 LB 922

problems faced there among the judges is burnout. You all sometimes get tired of hearing me on one bill, and you don't have to stay here. You can go to the lounge. You can go to your office. But if you are a juvenile judge you cannot say, I'm tired of this; I see broken families, broken lives, parents who don't care about their children, children who don't respect their parents, teachers not doing as they ought to do and I cannot take it anymore. Maybe that's the feeling inside, but judges are paid not to give into those feelings. They are expected not to make decisions based on those temporary glitches of an emotional nature. So we require of them a very high standard of professionalism, patience, understanding and judicial temperament. When we overload people in those highly charged situations we are doing a disservice. We need to offer another judge to reduce that workload, not just for the judges so it's easy, but to make sure, to the extent that we can, that the children, the families, who enter these juvenile courtrooms can get a fair or as fair a hearing as is possible. So I hope that we will not look at \$300,000, see a mountain that cannot be surmounted. Brothers and sisters, if we override this veto tomorrow it will not make any difference, six months from now it will make less difference, a year from now most people will be glad that we did it, but the good that we do this instant will bear fruit...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...farther down the line, on and on and on. It will rebound to the benefit of those children and those families that we say we want to help. When we speak of family values and the need to hold families together, many of those families wind up before a juvenile judge. We don't want a harried, harassed, tired, irritated person making snap judgments because the workload is simply overwhelming. I hope we will vote to override this veto. It is not going to bust the budget. It is not going to hurt anything. Only positives can come from it.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is kind of like getting on a horse and riding